

In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1 1. [Currently amended] A method for processing invoices
2 by having the individual employee of an enterprise creating
3 an original order for goods and services for end-use by said
4 individual employee determine that a resulting invoice
5 should be paid or not, comprising the steps of:

6 receiving at an enterprise accounting and catalog
7 system from said individual employee a requisition for
8 goods or services from a vendor for end-use by said
9 individual employee;

10 said enterprise accounting and catalog system preparing
11 from said requisition a purchase order;

12 said enterprise accounting and catalog system
13 submitting said purchase order selectively as one of an
14 EDI message and a paper purchasing document to said
15 vendor;

16 receiving from said vendor an invoice for said goods or
17 services ~~as one of~~ selectively as an electronic invoice
18 and a paper invoice, said electronic invoice being
19 received for processing by said enterprise accounting
20 and catalog system and said paper invoice being

21 received for processing to said enterprise accounting
22 and catalog system by accounts payable personnel other
23 than said individual employee;

24 preparing an invoice image of an invoice received for
25 said goods or services ordered by said individual
26 employee;

27 storing said invoice image in an image store;

28 keying said image to invoice data;

29 said enterprise accounting and catalog system
30 communicating by electronic mail an invoice
31 confirmation request to said individual employee
32 creating said original order for goods or services for
33 end-use by said individual employee, said request
34 instructing said individual employee to log on to said
35 enterprise accounting and catalog system, including
36 said invoice data and a link to said invoice image, and
37 specifying that said invoice is subject ~~to one of~~
38 selectively to negative confirmation and positive
39 confirmation processing, said negative confirmation
40 processing including advising said individual employee
41 via e-mail that said invoice is confirmed unless
42 specifically not approved by said individual employee,
43 and said positive confirmation processing including
44 advising said individual employee that said invoice
45 will be confirmed upon entry by said individual

46 employee of approval;

47 providing at a user workstation a search interface in
48 said enterprise accounting and catalog system for said
49 individual employee to enter criteria and have links to
50 images of invoices that match said criteria be
51 displayed at said user workstation; and

52 responsive to selection of a link by said individual,
53 displaying said invoice image for approval by said
54 individual creating said original order selectively by
55 said negative confirmation and positive confirmation
56 processing.

1 2. [Original] The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 the step of:

3 preparing said invoice images by scanning paper
4 invoices received from a vendor.

1 3. [Previously presented] The method of claim 2, further
2 comprising the step of:

3 preparing other of said invoice images by converting
4 electronic invoices received from a vendor into an
5 image file representation having the look of a paper
6 invoice.

1 4. [Previously presented] The method of claim 1, said
2 invoice confirmation request advising said individual
3 employee to process said confirmation as negative
4 confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1 5. [Previously presented] The method of claim 4, said
2 invoice confirmation request further advising said
3 individual employee to log on to a front-end requisition and
4 catalog server to view invoices for confirmation.

1 6. [Previously presented] The method of claim 5, further
2 comprising the step responsive to said individual employee
3 logging on to said front-end server of displaying a list of
4 invoices awaiting confirmation and responsive to user
5 selection of a selected invoice, presenting images of
6 invoices corresponding to links selected by said individual
7 employee.

1 7. [Previously presented] The method of claim 1, further
2 comprising the steps of presenting to said individual
3 employee an interface for selecting images of invoices
4 matching a selection criteria.

1 8. [Canceled]

1 9. [Currently amended] A system for processing invoices
2 by having the individual employee creating an original order
3 for goods or services for end use by said individual

determine that a resulting invoice should be paid or not,
comprising:

a front-end requisition and catalog system;

a back-end procurement services system;

a scanner for scanning images of invoices;

an image system and store for storing said scanned
images and serving them to said workstation keyed to
said invoice;

a workstation selectively receiving user entry from
said individual employee of a requisition request for
goods or services for end-use by said individual
employee, receiving confirmation requests, and viewing
images of invoices from said image system and store;
said confirmation request instructing said individual
employee to log on to said back-end system to view and
approve an invoice ~~by a specified one of~~ selectively by
negative and positive confirmation processing, said
negative confirmation processing including advising
said individual employee via e-mail that said invoice
is confirmed unless specifically not approved by said
individual employee, and said positive confirmation
processing including advising said individual employee
that said invoice will be confirmed upon entry by said
individual employee of approval;

28 said front-end system selectively receiving said
29 requisition requests from said workstation, forwarding
30 said requisition requests to said back-end system, and
31 receiving confirmation requests from said back-end
32 system for forwarding to said workstation; and

33 said back-end system selectively issuing purchase
34 orders against said requisitions to a vendor
35 selectively as one of an electronic and paper purchase
36 order, receiving and processing invoices electronic
37 invoices directly from said vendor and paper invoices
38 as received and processed by accounts payable personnel
39 other than said individual employee, keying invoice
40 images to invoice information, and processing
41 confirmation requests to said front-end system for
42 communication to said workstation for approval by said
43 individual employee creating said original order for
44 goods or services for end use by said individual
45 employee.

1 10. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable
2 by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions
3 executable by a machine to perform a method for processing
4 invoices by having the individual employee creating an
5 original order as an end user of a commodity or service
6 determine that a resulting invoice should be paid or not,
7 said method comprising:

8 preparing an invoice image;
9 storing said invoice image in an image store;
10 keying said image to invoice data;
11 communicating invoice confirmation request to said
12 individual employee, said request including said
13 invoice data and a link to said invoice image;
14 responsive to requester selection of said link,
15 displaying said invoice image to said individual
16 employee for approval by said individual employee
17 creating said original order according to a specified
18 confirmation process consisting selectively of ~~one of a~~
19 a negative confirmation process including advising said
20 individual employee via e-mail that said invoice is
21 confirmed unless specifically not approved by said
22 individual employee, and a positive confirmation
23 process including advising said individual employee
24 that said invoice will be confirmed upon entry by said
25 individual employee of approval.

1 11. [Currently amended] A computer program product ~~or~~
2 ~~computer program element~~ for processing invoices by having
3 the individual employee creating an original order for goods
4 and services for end-use by said individual employee
5 determine that a resulting invoice should be paid or not

6 according to steps comprising:

7 receiving at an enterprise accounting and catalog
8 system from said individual employee a requisition for
9 goods or services from a vendor for end use by said
10 individual employee;

11 said enterprise accounting and catalog system preparing
12 from said requisition a purchase order;

13 said enterprise accounting and catalog system
14 submitting said purchase order selectively as ~~one of an~~
15 an EDI message and a paper purchasing document to said
16 vendor;

17 receiving from said vendor an invoice for said goods or
18 services ~~as one of~~ selectively as an electronic invoice
19 and a paper invoice, said electronic invoice being
20 received for processing by said enterprise accounting
21 and catalog system and said paper invoice being
22 received for processing to said enterprise accounting
23 and catalog system by accounts payable personnel other
24 than said individual employee;

25 preparing an invoice image of an invoice received for
26 said goods or services ordered by said individual
27 employee;

28 storing said invoice image in an image store;

29 keying said image to invoice data;

30 said enterprise accounting and catalog system

31 communicating by electronic mail ~~communicating~~ an

32 invoice confirmation request to said individual

33 employee, said request instructing said individual

34 employee to log on to said enterprise accounting and

35 catalog system, including said invoice data and a link

36 to said invoice image, and specifying that said invoice

37 is selectively subject ~~to one of~~ to negative

38 confirmation and positive confirmation processing, said

39 negative confirmation processing including advising

40 said individual employee via e-mail that said invoice

41 is confirmed unless specifically not approved by said

42 individual employee, and said positive confirmation

43 processing including advising said individual employee

44 that said invoice will be confirmed upon entry by said

45 individual employee of approval;

46 providing at a user workstation a search interface in

47 said enterprise accounting and catalog system for said

48 individual employee to enter criteria and have links to

49 images of invoices that match said criteria be

50 displayed at said user workstation; and

51 responsive to selection of a link by said individual

52 employee, displaying said invoice image for approval by

53 said individual employee creating said original order

54 for goods or services for end use by said individual

55 employee selectively by said negative confirmation and
56 positive confirmation processing.

1 12. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 10, said method further comprising:

3 preparing said invoice images by scanning paper
4 invoices received from a vendor.

1 13. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 12, said method further comprising:

3 preparing other of said invoice images by converting
4 electronic invoices received from a vendor into an
5 image file representation having the look of a paper
6 invoice.

1 14. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 10, said invoice confirmation request advising said
3 individual employee to process said confirmation as negative
4 confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1 15. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 14, said invoice confirmation request further advising
3 said individual employee to log on to a front- end
4 requisition and catalog server to view invoices for
5 confirmation.

1 16. [Previously presented] The program storage device of

2 claim 15, said method further comprising responsive to said
3 individual employee logging on to said front-end server of
4 displaying a list of invoices awaiting confirmation and
5 responsive to selection of a selected invoice by said
6 individual employee, presenting images of invoices
7 corresponding to links selected by said individual employee.

1 17. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 10, said method further comprising presenting to said
3 individual employee an interface for selecting images of
4 invoices matching a selection criteria.